

Message Text

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43

ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

FEA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /206 W
----- 015268

P R 181542Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1290

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 59

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETGD, GATT, EFTA, EC, SW

SUBJECT: EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

REF: STATE 7333; STOCKHOLM 1416, APRIL 27, 1973

1. NOTE ON RULES OF ORIGIN WAS DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY JANUARY 14 (COPY POUCHED TO GENEVA). ECON COUNSELOR HELD DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT JANUARY 18 WITH RAGNOR SOHLMAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL, FIRST DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. HE SAID THAT SWEDEN WOULD OF COURSE BE AGREEABLE TO CONSULTATIONS. THEY WOULD ALSO SUPPORT GATT WORKING PARTY IF THAT APPROACH WERE RESURRECTED.

2. SOHLMAN NOTED THAT DURING NEGOTIATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT WITH EC, SWEDES SAID THAT THEY WOULD WANT TO COME BACK TO R/O QUESTION AFTER ABOUT TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE WITH RULES. THEY ANTICIPATE SUCH DISCUSSIONS THIS FALL OR WINTER. TO THAT END SWEDISH EXPORT COUNCIL CONDUCTED A MAJOR BLBEY OF SWEDISH INDUSTRY FEW MONTHS AGO AND IS NOW IN PROCESS OF EVALUATING REPLIES RECEIVED. WHILE STUDY NOT YET COMPLETED, SOHLMAN SAID HIS PRELIMINARY IMPRESSION OF INDUSTRY RESPONSE IS: A) RED TAPE OF R/O CONTINUES TO BE REAL PROBLEM, DESPITE CERTAIN SIMPLIFICATIONS INTRODUCED LAST YEAR; AND B) WHILE SHIFTS IN SOURCES OF SUPPLY SO FAR ARE NOT IN MAGNITUDE FEARED, THERE ARE INSTANCES WHERE THIS HAS HAPPENED.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT TALK WITH OFFICIAL AT EXPORT COUNCIL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INDUSTRY SURVEY WAS OBTAINED. SOURCE SAID THAT "QUITE A FEW FIRMS" REPORTED THAT THEY "HAD CHANGED, OR WERE TRYING TO CHANGE, THEIR SUPPLIERS" OF COMPONENTS TO AVOID POSSIBLE LOSS OF FREE-TRADE STATUS FOR THEIR FINAL PRODUCTS. MOST SUCH FIRMS ARE IN "MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT" SECTOR. THUS, COUNCIL IS URGING GOS TO SEEK CHANGE IN R/O WHICH WOULD

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PROVIDE "INCREASE TO 40 PERCENT OF PRESENT 5 PERCENT TOLERANCE, WHEN NO CHANGE OF TARIFF HEADING, FOR BTA CHAPTERS 84 THROUGH 92," I.E., REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR CHANGED TARIFF HEADINGS FOR PRODUCTS IN CHAPTERS 84 THROUGH 92 OF BTN AND APPLY ACROSS-THE-BOARD 40 PERCENT LIMITATION ON THIRD COUNTRY COMPONENTS. EXPORT COUNCIL BELIEVES SUCH A CHANGE WOULD SOLVE PROBLEMS OF EXCESSIVE RED TAPE AS WELL AS TRADE DIVERSION. IT IS NOT ESPECIALLY HOPEFUL THAT EC

CAN BE PERSUADED TO GO THAT FAR.
OLSEN

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